

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1 -18 (cancelled)

19. (New) An anchoring system for emplacement in bone, comprising a female anchoring member and a plurality of male anchoring members, each anchoring member having a proximal end and a distal end, the plurality of male anchoring members each having a first adaptation to facilitate a mechanical connection to the female anchoring member and the female anchoring member having a plurality of second adaptations to facilitate mechanical connection to the plurality of male anchoring members, the proximal end of the female anchoring member being spaced apart from the proximal ends of the plurality of male anchoring members, whereby the plurality of male anchoring members form at least one acute angle with the female anchoring member when the female anchoring member and the plural male anchoring members are connected.

20. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 19, wherein the plurality of male anchoring members extend coplanarly when connected to the female anchoring member.

21. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 19, wherein the plurality of male anchoring members extend in at least two different planes when connected to the female anchoring member.

22. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 19, wherein the first adaptation is an external screw thread on the plurality of male anchoring members and the second adaptation is at least one mating tapped internal screw thread on the female anchoring member.

23. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 19, wherein the first adaptation is a hook provided on the plurality of male anchoring members and the second adaptation is at least one slot defined through the female anchoring member, the hook is adapted to be inserted through the at least one slot and to be rotated so as to engage the hook behind the female anchoring member.

24. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 19, wherein the second adaptations is at least one opening defined in the female anchoring member, and the first adaptation is an expendable element provided on the plurality of male anchoring members and adapted to be inserted through the at least one opening and to spread once behind the female anchoring member.

25. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 24, wherein the expendable element provided on the plurality of male anchoring members spreads automatically once behind the female anchoring member.

26. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 24, wherein the expendable element provided on the plurality of male anchoring members is to be spread mechanically once behind the female anchoring member.

27. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 19, wherein the second adaptation is at least one clip provided on the female anchoring member, and adapted to displace from a male anchoring member receiving position for receiving said male anchoring member to a male anchoring member retaining position for connecting said male and female anchoring members together.

28. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 19, wherein the plurality of male anchoring members include a first male anchoring member having an opening adapted to be engaged by a further male anchoring member, the first male anchoring member thereby acting as a hybrid anchoring member that both engages the female anchoring member and is engaged by the further male anchoring member.

29. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 19, wherein the female anchoring member extends within a bone and through a break defined therein, the plurality of male anchoring members engaging the female anchoring member for maintaining the bone together.

30 (New) An anchoring system for mounting an object to a bone, comprising a female anchoring member and a plurality of male anchoring members, each anchoring member having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal ends being adapted to hold the object to the bone, the plurality of male anchoring members each having a first adaptation to facilitate a mechanical connection to the female anchoring member and the female anchoring member having a plurality

of second adaptations to facilitate mechanical connection to the plurality of male anchoring members, the proximal end of the female anchoring member being spaced apart from the proximal ends of the plurality of male anchoring members, whereby the plurality of male anchoring members form at least one acute angle with the female anchoring member when the female anchoring member and the plural male anchoring members are connected.

31. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 30, wherein the plurality of male anchoring members extend coplanarly when connected to the female anchoring member.

32. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 30, wherein the plurality of male anchoring members extend in at least two different planes when connected to the female anchoring member.

33. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 30, wherein the first adaptation is an external screw thread on the plurality of male anchoring members and the second adaptation is at least one mating tapped internal screw thread on the female anchoring member.

34. (New) The anchoring system of Claim 30, wherein the first adaptation is a hook provided on the plurality of male anchoring members and the second adaptation is at least one slot defined through the female anchoring member, the hook is adapted to be inserted through the at least one slot and to be rotated so as to engage the hook behind the female anchoring member.

35. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 30, wherein the second adaptations is at least one opening defined in the female anchoring member, and the first adaptation is an expendable element provided on the plurality of male anchoring members and adapted to be inserted through the at least one opening and to spread once behind the female anchoring member.

36. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 30, wherein the second adaptation is at least one clip provided on the female anchoring member, and adapted to displace from a male anchoring member receiving position for receiving said male anchoring member to a male anchoring member retaining position for connecting said male and female anchoring members together.

37. (New) An anchoring system as defined in claim 30, wherein the plurality of male anchoring members include a first male anchoring member having an opening adapted to be engaged by a further male anchoring member, the first male anchoring member thereby acting as a hybrid anchoring member that both engages the female anchoring member and is engaged by the further male anchoring member.